



Let's Celebrate!

[CLICK HERE TO SEE THE LATEST ON THE ECUSTA TRAIL DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION](#) [1]

In an effort that initially started in 2008, a subsidiary of **Conserving Carolina successfully purchased approximately 19 miles of rail corridor** from King Street in Hendersonville to Carr Lumbar Company Rd in Brevard on Thursday, August 12, 2021. This section of rail, named Ecusta Rail due to its former use by the Ecusta Paper Mill in Brevard, is federally railbanked and **will be converted into a public, multi-use trail**. We anticipate questions about this project. [Please follow this link for FAQs](#) [2].

To stay up to date on the Ecusta Trail, [consider joining the Friends of the Ecusta Trail newsletter](#) [3].

[To learn more about "railbanking" click here!](#) [4]

The County was awarded \$5,075,219 in federal funds to construct the first three phases of the trail from Hendersonville to the rail crossing US Highway 64 in Horse Shoe. It is expected the engineering design for this phase will begin in the next few months and construction to start in 2023. Grant applications for funding of the final sections to be constructed from Horse Shoe to the County line in Blantyre are anticipated to be submitted in the near future.

The County is very respectful of local property rights along the trail. Designing and constructing the trail will be a public process between the County, the Municipalities through which the trail will go, and the citizens. The public will be invited to participate in the final design. The County is very mindful of the fact that this trail will encourage visitors to come to a unique public park and experience the quality of life that we all enjoy. The benefits to our local economy will be realized in many ways.

Major Milestones for the Ecusta Trail:

- **August 2002:** Ecusta Paper Mill closed its doors and rail activity ceased on the line.
- **March 2008:** Local advocacy began for converting the rail into a bicycle/pedestrian trail.
- **August 2019:** Conserving Carolina received a federal grant to purchase the Ecusta rail corridor.
- **August 2020:** Henderson County received over \$5 million in federal grant money to conduct preliminary engineering and construct the first three phases of the Ecusta Rail Trail (Kanuga Rd west to Battle Creek Rd).
- **June 2021:** Rail line was federally railbanked.
- **August 2021:** Conserving Carolina became the title owner of the 19 miles of rail corridor.
- **November 2021:** Henderson County leased the 11 miles of rail within the county in perpetuity.
- **November 2021:** Henderson County Board of Commissioners formed a [Rail Trail Advisory Committee](#) [5] to give recommendations on trail issues.
- **March 2022:** Vaughn & Melton were hired to perform preliminary engineering and design for the first three phases of the trail.



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